

In the Claims:

1 1. [Currently Amended] An image forming device comprising:
 2 an image engine configured to form hard images;
 3 an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental
 4 condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative
 5 of the at least one environmental condition;
 6 an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least
 7 one environmental condition externally of the image forming device;
 8 a memory; and
 9 processing circuitry configured to control storage of the data using the
 10 memory to provide a history of the at least one environmental condition
 11 ~~conditions~~ to which the image forming device has been exposed.

1 2. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the image engine is
 2 configured to use a consumable to form the hard images, and the interface
 3 comprises a memory of the consumable.

1 3. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the interface comprises a
 2 communications interface adapted to communicate with devices external of the
 3 image forming device.

1 4. [Original] The device of claim 1 further comprising processing
 2 circuitry configured as an embedded web server and configured to communicate
 3 the data with respect to a client device external of the image forming device.

1 5. Canceled.

1 6. [Previously Presented] The device of claim 1 wherein the
 2 processing circuitry is configured to control the storage of the data at a
 3 predetermined moment in time.

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1 7. [Previously Presented] The device of claim 1 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to monitor the data and to control the storage
3 of the data responsive to the monitoring.

1 8. [Original] The device of claim 1 further comprising an internal
2 power source configured to provide power to the sensor in an absence of power
3 from a source external of the image forming device.

1 9. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the environmental sensor
2 is configured to monitor the at least one environmental condition comprising a
3 plurality of environmental conditions proximate to the image forming device and
4 comprising humidity and temperature.

1 10. [Original] The device of claim 1 wherein the image engine
2 comprises a print engine of the image forming device embodied as a printer.

1 11. [Currently Amended] A method of operating an image forming
2 device, the method comprising:

3 providing an image forming device configured to form hard images;
4 sensing at least one environmental condition of an environment proximate
5 to the image forming device;

6 communicating data regarding the at least one environmental condition
7 externally of the image forming device; and

8 receiving a request within the image forming device from a source
9 external of the image forming device, and the communicating comprises
10 communicating responsive to the receiving; ~~and~~

11 ~~wherein the providing comprises providing the image forming device~~
12 ~~configured to use a consumable to form hard images, and the communicating~~
13 ~~comprises storing the data regarding the at least one environmental condition~~
14 ~~using the consumable.~~

1 12. Canceled.

1 13. Canceled.

1 14. [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the sensing comprises
2 sensing a plurality of environmental conditions comprising temperature and
3 humidity.

1 15. [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein the providing comprises
2 providing the image forming device embodied as a printer.

1 16. [Previously Presented] A method of monitoring an environment
2 proximate to an image forming device configured to form hard images, the
3 method comprising:

4 providing an image forming device configured to form hard images and to
5 monitor at least one environmental condition proximate to the image forming
6 device and to communicate data regarding the at least one environmental
7 condition externally of the image forming device;

8 receiving the data regarding the at least one environmental condition from
9 the image forming device; and

10 analyzing the data regarding the at least one environmental condition after
11 the receiving to determine a quantitative parameter for the at least one
12 environmental condition for testing other image forming devices.

1 17. Canceled.

1 18. [Original] The method of claim 16 further comprising
2 communicating a request to the image forming device, and wherein the
3 communicating the data is responsive to the communicating the request.

1 19. [Original] The method of claim 16 wherein the providing comprises
2 providing the image forming device configured to use a consumable, and
3 wherein the receiving the data comprises extracting the data from the
4 consumable.

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1 20. [Original] The method of claim 16 wherein the providing comprises
2 providing the image forming device configured to monitor the at least one
3 environmental condition comprising a plurality of environmental conditions
4 comprising temperature and humidity.

1 21. [Previously Presented] An image forming device comprising:
2 an image engine configured to form hard images;
3 an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental
4 condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative
5 of the at least one environmental condition;
6 an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least
7 one environmental condition externally of the image forming device; and
8 an internal power source configured to provide power to the sensor in an
9 absence of power from a source external of the image forming device.

1 22. Canceled.

1 23. [Previously Presented] An image forming device comprising:
2 an image engine configured to form hard images;
3 an environmental sensor configured to monitor at least one environmental
4 condition proximate to the image forming device and to provide data indicative
5 of the at least one environmental condition;
6 an interface configured to communicate the data indicative of the at least
7 one environmental condition externally of the image forming device; and
8 wherein the image engine is configured to use a consumable to form the
9 hard images, and the interface comprises a memory of the consumable.

1 24. [New] The device of claim 1 wherein the data of the history
2 comprises a plurality of values for the at least one environmental condition
3 stored over a period of time.

1 25. [New] The device of claim 1 further comprising an internal power
2 source configured to provide operational power to permit storage of the data to
3 provide the history of the at least one environmental condition during an
4 absence of power from a source external of the image forming device.

1 26. [New] The method of claim 11 wherein the providing comprises
2 providing the image forming device configured to use a consumable to form hard
3 images, and the communicating comprises storing the data regarding the at least
4 one environmental condition using the consumable.

1 27. [New] The method of claim 16 wherein the quantitative parameter
2 comprises a temperature range.

1 28. [New] An image forming device testing method comprising:
2 providing a first image forming device to be tested;
3 accessing a history comprising data indicative of at least one
4 environmental condition to which at least one second image forming device has
5 been exposed;
6 determining at least one testing criteria responsive to the accessing of the
7 history; and
8 testing the first image forming device using the testing criteria after the
9 determining.

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